



FY 2021 Appropriations Priorities

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Agency	Account	APLU FY2021 Request
Agency for International Development (USAID)	USAID Higher Education	\$250 million
	USAID Higher Education: Institutional capacity building partnerships	\$40 million
	Feed the Future Innovation Labs	\$60 million
State Department	Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program	\$18 million
	Study Abroad Initiatives	\$4 million

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)

USAID HIGHER EDUCATION

APLU FY2021 Request: \$250 million

FY2021 PBR = \$235 M; FY2020 = \$235 M; FY2019 = \$235 M

Higher Education programming within USAID takes several forms, including support for partnerships, scholarships, institutional capacity building, workforce development, and policy/institutional reforms. These engagement activities lead to more robust higher education degree programs and curricula, human capital development, and global higher education systems. Ultimately, this contributes to stronger economies and supports countries on the path to self-reliance. Recent USAID publications like the USAID Higher Education Landscape Analysis of 2014-2018¹ are a valuable review of higher education engagement activities both across USAID and from a historical perspective.

Around the world, colleges and universities develop invaluable human capital, prepare global leaders, and cultivate competitive economies helping provide critical economic growth and political stability. The “university effect,” on economic growth as described in a National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper in 2016² demonstrates the impact. Historical data across all regions of the world indicate that a doubling of the number of universities per capita is associated with 4 percent higher future GDP per capita with spillover effects on the region.

¹Lebron, J., Griffin, A., DePietro-Jurand, Robin. 2019. [USAID Higher Education Landscape Analysis 2014-2018](#), USAID.

McMaster, M., Guevara, A., Roberts, L., and Alvis, S. 2019. [USAID Higher Education: A Retrospective 1960-2020](#), USAID

²Valero, A. and Van Reenen, J. 2016. NBER Working Paper No. 22501 Published by the NBER Economics of Education and Labor Studies Program

USAID Higher Education: Institutional capacity building partnerships

APLU FY2021 Request: \$40 million

FY2021 PBR = \$35 M; FY2020 = \$35 M; FY2019 = \$35 M

As is clear from the vast and growing network of partnerships among universities around the world, building partnerships to sustain collaborative work is critical to advancing higher education. Disconnected universities simply cannot provide quality education. Creating opportunities for universities to learn from peer institutions about best practices in higher education administration creates opportunities for lasting engagement that can result in collaborative research, joint degrees, study abroad opportunities, and other forms of collaboration that are key to vibrant and relevant higher education. With USAID providing key funding, partnerships can build relationships between institutions that can extend for decades.

FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LABS

APLU FY2021 Request: \$60 million

FY2020 PBR = N/A; FY2020 = \$55 M; FY2019 = \$55 M

Feed the Future Innovation Labs are a two-for-one investment. They solve critical agricultural problems that impact food security and poverty through research conducted collaboratively between U.S. and developing country students and scientists while also promoting a path to self-reliance and resilience by strengthening the capacity of developing country research institutions and scientists. More than 60 U.S. universities are engaged in the Innovation Labs. This global engagement creates linkages that facilitate U.S. economic ties with developing countries and fosters economic growth in developing countries that benefits their economy and ours.

APLU requests \$60 million for Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Labs. Additionally, we request that the appropriation return to the bill rather than just committee report language.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APLU FY2021 Request: \$18 million

FY2020 PBR = \$3.9 M; FY2020 = \$16 M; FY2019 = \$16 M

Since its inception in 2001, the program has awarded over 31,000 scholarships across 1,335 U.S. Institutions to students studying and interning abroad in more than 150 countries. The Gilman Scholarship serves as an equalizer for thousands of low-income, underserved and underrepresented students who may otherwise not be able to participate in study abroad programs due to financial constraints. Despite tremendous interest in the program by low-income students, funding for the program has not increased to meet demand. During the 2018-2019 cycle, the State Department was only able to fund 3,200 out of the 12,000 applications it received. In an era of global competitiveness, equipping U.S. students with opportunities like Gilman that emphasize critical languages in diverse countries is essential to bolstering the U.S. economy and our global standing in the world.

STUDY ABROAD INITIATIVES

APLU FY2021 Request: \$4 million

FY2021 PBR = \$0; FY2020 = N/A; FY2019 = \$1.5 M

The Capacity-Building Program, also known as the Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students (IDEAS) program, is essential to expanding the number of students studying abroad while also increasing diversity of participants and destinations. The program reinforces U.S. foreign policy goals by providing students language proficiencies and tools required to address global challenges.

In 2019, the State Department was only able to fund 22 out of the 120 applications it received for the Capacity Building Program. Increased funding for the program is critical to developing the next generation of U.S. leaders and cultivating vital skills needed to support U.S. national security and economic competitiveness.

About the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities. With a membership of over 200 public research universities, land-grant institutions, state university systems, and affiliated organizations, APLU's agenda is built on the three pillars of increasing degree completion and academic success, advancing scientific research, and expanding engagement. Annually, our U.S. member campuses enroll 4.3 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.2 million degrees, employ 1.1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$46.7 billion in university-based research.